

COVID-19 and Level of Public Trust Towards Jokowi's Good Governance

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ABSTRACT

This article examines COVID-19 and the level of trust of the Indonesian people in the good governance of the Jokowi's administration related to the government's slow response at the start of this pandemic. Differences in statements from several government officials regarding the existence of COVID-19 had caused the level of public trust in Jokowi's administration to decline. Jokowi's programs covering maritime, infrastructure, bureaucracy, cooperation, were delayed due to COVID-19. This will be a problem for Indonesia if it is not supported by public trust. The author will analyze based on the concept of good governance and how the level of Indonesian public trust in the good governance of the Jokowi administration during COVID-19. The used research method is qualitative with secondary data sources from various literature regarding the good governance of Jokowi's administration. This study also uses tracking media, which data is taken from the news websites and social media regarding the Indonesian public's response to the good governance of Jokowi's administration during the pandemic. From media tracking, the results can be seen how the level of public trust in Jokowi's good governance before and after COVID-19.

Keywords: COVID19; Level of Public Trust; President Jokowi; Good Governance

INTRODUCTION

Indonesia's Economy and the Government's Failure in Dealing with COVID-19 Indonesia's economic growth before COVID-19 was quite good. In 2019, Indonesia is one of the countries with economic growth reaching 5 to 5.5 percent. The Composite Stock Price Index in early January reached 6300, improving foreign exchange reserves made it attractive for investors, as well as a stable rupiah condition (Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Indonesia, 2020). This is all because of the good governance of the Jokowi administration. The idea of good governance is identified with the concept of good governance. A sovereign state finds it very difficult to admit mistakes in its political system and government for its failure to achieve the goals and objectives of development desired by society. Thus, the notion of good governance does not come from the sovereign state system but the policy instructions of international non-state institutions. For example, the interpretation of good governance based on the World Bank is related to the terms "administrative" and "managerial". Another meaning of good governance is emphasizing competitive politics. The first meaning is narrower, namely only purely administrative, while the second meaning is more concerned with the relationship between democracy and development (Nag N. S, 2018).

From the above definition, good governance describes something related to administration and management. Although there are also more detailed interpretations of good governance, for example, those related to rule of law, transparency, effectiveness, and efficiency. Points on good governance are very important to be carried out by a country, including Indonesia. During the Jokowi administration, good governance was a priority in carrying out all its programs. Jokowi has 10 economic reform packages related to ease of investment, providing capital for small and medium enterprises, taxation policies, building energy security such as expanding oil refineries, electricity infrastructure development, and others (Ray. D., & Ing L. Y, 2016).

Before COVID-19 occurred, Indonesia was optimistic that it could bring the country's growth in a better direction by carrying

out the ten economic packages. Minister of Finance Sri Mulyani stated that Indonesia's economic target in 2020 will reach 5.3 percent by 2020 (Media Indonesia, 2020).

The confidence of the Indonesian people in the implementation of good governance in the Jokowi's administration is also very good. The indication can be seen from the SMRC survey, the level of public trust in the democratic system reaches 74 percent (VOA Indonesia, 2020).

COVID-19 entered Indonesia in mid-March 2020. The Jokowi administration's response to contain the spread of COVID-19 was not quick to respond. The Jokowi's government bureaucracy often issues statements that seem to "underestimate" the existence of COVID-19. As stated by Vice President Ma'ruf Amin who said that the Corona Virus could be lost with a prayer of qunut, (Tempo.com, 2020) or Airlangga Hartanto's expression which stated that the Corona Virus could not enter Indonesia because it needed a license (Rmol.ID, 2020), or a statement from the Minister of Health about not recommending wearing masks (CNN, 2020), or Luhut Pandjaitan's statement that the Corona Virus cannot survive Indonesia's hot weather (Kompas.com, 2020). The central government also does not prohibit foreign tourists, especially from China entering Indonesia. Meanwhile, other ASEAN countries are carrying out airport lockdowns while the number of COVID-19 cases continues to increase (Muhibat S, 2020). Based on SATGAS COVID-19 data, the number of COVID-19 infections in Indonesia continues to increase every month. The government began to panic and implemented several policies such as PSBB, social distancing, WFH (Work from Home), and recommended health protocols. However, poor public communication which has already been carried out by several officials has caused the level of public trust in the good governance of the Jokowi administration to decline. Based on a survey conducted by Indo Barometer, the level of public confidence in the government's ability to cope with the pandemic is decreasing. Indo Barometer Executive Director M. Qodari assessed this was because the government had not been able to reduce the number of patients infected with COVID-19 (Katadata, 2020).

This is very dangerous for the Jokowi government in carrying out its policies to defend the Indonesian economy amid a pandemic. According to Jeffry M. Paige (1971), public trust is another form of political participation. High trust in government and high political awareness means that political participation tends to be active. Conversely, if trust in the government is low and political awareness is low, political participation tends to be passive, depressed, or apathetic (Gatara A. S, 2020). So, this research is very important to determine the level of trust of the Indonesian people in the good governance of the Jokowi government. If the level of confidence increases or at least is stable, this will help maintain Indonesia's economic growth rate amid the pandemic. However, if the level of public trust decreases, the Indonesian economy will experience difficulties because of COVID-19.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative method. Nicholas Walliman (2006) in his book entitled "Social Research Methods" explains that qualitative methods do not involve numerical data but are based more on information contained in words such as descriptions, opinions, feelings, and others. This approach is more common when the focus is on topics related to people, whether in groups or individuals, and can even be used on more general topics such as beliefs, ideologies, and customs. Often in qualitative research, it is not possible to determine exactly what data to collect due to a lack of understanding of the situation or process at hand. Analysis of the data that has been collected periodically will determine the direction of research and further data collection (Nicholas W, 2006).

For data sources, the author uses the opinion of Creswell (2013) which explains that in qualitative research, researchers take notes, analyze, or observe phenomena related to data, events, and facts that can be in the form of documents. Qualitative research involves researchers as an instrument in the collection and analysis of data originating from the field, physically dealing with outsiders, backgrounds, locations, or institutions to observe and record their natural behavior and background (Creswell

J. W, 2013). This research uses secondary data, namely literature studies from journals, websites, and e-books. Data is also obtained through the media tracking process from social media Facebook, Twitter, and the news website. about the amounts of data reach 240 contents. The author processed the data and obtained the results of positive and negative responses from the Indonesian public.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Indonesian's Trust towards Jokowi's Good Governance after COVID-19

Since being elected as president of Indonesia in 2014-2019, Jokowi has been recognized by the Indonesian public as a president who can bring change. According to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the level of trust of the Indonesian people in the government reached 80 percent in 2016 (Secretariat of the Cabinet of the Republic of Indonesia, 2017). Under his leadership, President Jokowi had a positive public image which helped increase public trust. Jokowi reduced subsidies to transform the fundamentals of the national economy and change the development paradigm from consumptive to productive. Productive development starts with carrying out development from the periphery, regions, and villages, increasing the productivity of human resources, and science and technology which is driven by a mental attitude that is creative, innovative, and persistent. One of the changes made by President Jokowi is carrying out infrastructure development as his main political project, where the government believes that infrastructure is the basic capital for a country to progress and infrastructure development must be carried out by the state immediately. President Jokowi's commitment to building Indonesia's infrastructure attracted the attention of the public because during the previous administration there was various neglect of infrastructure development. Jokowi stated that the previous administration had an infrastructure budget, but no system distributed it for the benefit of the community (Ekayanta F, 2019).

In addition, the Jokowi administration's policy in the Global Maritime Fulcrum Policy

(GMF) as one of the main focuses of national development brings good changes for Indonesia. Among them is enforcement of the territorial sovereignty of the territorial waters of the Republic of Indonesia (NKRI), revitalization of the maritime economy sector, strengthening and development of maritime connectivity, rehabilitation of environmental damage and preservation of biodiversity, and increasing the quality and quantity of marine human resources (HR). Indonesia as a maritime country must pay special attention to the marine sector as a source of state wealth. During the Jokowi administration, he brought changes by committing to safeguard and manage marine resources (Saragih. H., Siregar. H., & Putera, 2018).

At the start of Jokowi's second term in 2019, according to the Indonesian Survey Institute (LSI), the level of public trust in Jokowi was still high at 71.8 percent (Kompas.com, 2019). However, in 2020 along with the presence of COVID-19 in Indonesia, the level of public satisfaction with the handling of COVID-19 carried out by the Jokowi administration will decrease. The Indonesian Survey Institute (LSI) sees that the level of community satisfaction with handling COVID-19 is 57.8 percent (Databoks, 2021). This decrease is the result of the policy for handling COVID-19 implemented by the Jokowi government which is considered ineffective.

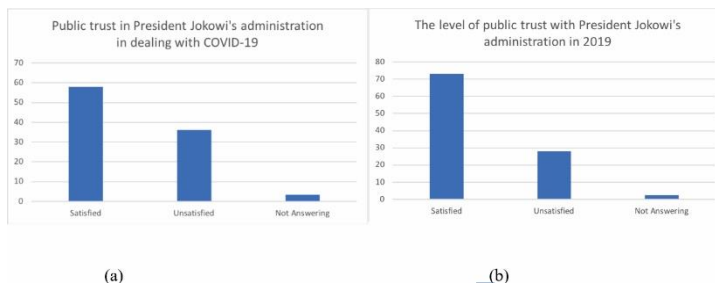


FIGURE 1. Shows the level of public satisfaction with Jokowi in 2019 and public satisfaction with Jokowi's performance in dealing with COVID-19.

President Jokowi is considered not transparent in dealing with COVID-19. Many sectors are not relevant to handling COVID-19. For example, the purchase of official cars for the Leadership, Supervisory Board, and Corruption

Eradication Commission (KPK) Structural Officials. This of course generated polemics ranging from civil society circles to the former leader of the KPK in the previous period (Kompas.com, 2020). In addition, government policies are considered irrelevant in dealing with COVID-19 with the government's plan to disburse funds for media and influencers in the context of promoting tourism to attract foreign tourists. This policy was delivered after the government held a meeting to anticipate the spread of the COVID-19 virus to the Indonesian economy. The incentives for foreign tourists are budgeted at Rp. 298.5 billion and Rp.72 billion. The government also provides incentives to airlines and travel agents so that they can provide discounts to tourists and provide discounts to domestic tourists by 30 percent. This policy is aimed at attracting foreign tourists who cannot travel to other countries that have been locked down so that the government takes this opportunity as an effort to increase tourist visits to Indonesia. Of course, this policy has received criticism because the government is considered not serious in preventing the spread of COVID-19 in Indonesia (Agustino L, 2020).

Meanwhile, according to Jeffry M. Paige (1971), public trust is very important to support government programs. Low trust situations result in an alienated orientation which will lead to withdrawal from active political participation. Even though the community considers the existing political structure to be unfair, the low level of political interest and information will prevent the community from supporting the government (Paige J. M, 1971). According to a survey compiled by Roda Tiga Konsultan related to public trust in the COVID-19 data issued by the government, as many as 43.5 percent of Indonesians doubt the data on the number of COVID-19 infections (Roda Tiga Konsultan, 2021).

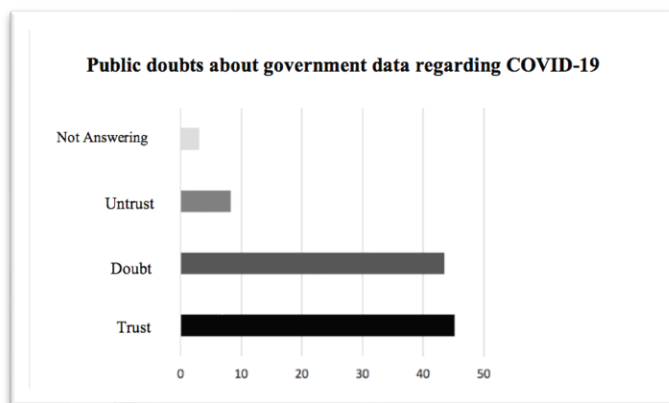


FIGURE 2. Shows the attitude of the Indonesian people who still doubt the COVID-19 data from the Indonesian government.

Public trust in President Jokowi era continues to decline concerning to policies issued by the government. The implementation of the New Normal at a time of increasing COVID-19 cases in Indonesia has made experts in Indonesia think that the government is desperate in dealing with COVID-19 and wants to create herd immunity. New Normal is a condition and/or social habit of society or individual behavior that appears after the COVID-19 pandemic (Habibi A, 2020) where people have a new way of life in carrying out life activities amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Wiku Adi Sasmita, Chair of the Expert Team for the Task Force for the Acceleration of Handling COVID-19, explained that New Normal is a behavior change to continue carrying out normal activities. However, this change is coupled with implementing health protocols to prevent transmission of COVID-19. President Jokowi also said that the New Normal is a condition that must be faced by the community to coexist with the threat of the COVID-19 virus (Kompas.com, 2020). This has an impact on public perceptions regarding the condition of the national economy. New Normal is also considered unable to solve the economic problems that hit Indonesia due to COVID-19. This can be seen from the results of the Indonesian Political Indicators survey on October 18, 2020.

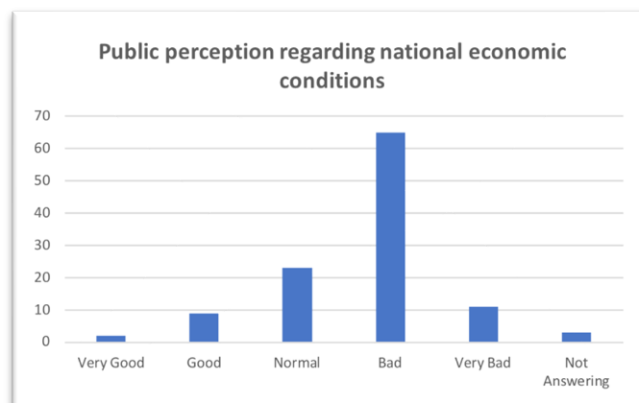


FIGURE 3. Shows public perception regarding national economic conditions.

Meanwhile, from the results of media tracking 204 news and social media Facebook and Twitter related to the handling of COVID-19 in Indonesia, two things have decreased the trust of the Indonesian public in the Government. First, the way the government communicates to the public. At the start of the pandemic, many of the Indonesian bureaucracy issued statements "playing games" rather than seriously dealing with COVID-19. Second, the transparency of COVID-19 data is considered lacking. This can be seen from several public comments sourced from social media Facebook and Twitter towards the government, such as:

"Today ... people are threatened with hunger stomachs because many are unemployed, still thinking about moving the capital ... so the President doesn't think about the priority scale ... moved the capital outside Java, only for the sake of the Oligarchy, all projects were designed there ... @jokowi,"

"Many are disappointed with Jokowi, especially not because of his children and his antagonist to be a regent or mayor, but because he realizes that he is like a politician. We do expect something ideal to happen in the real world, even though the world - especially the world of politics - is never ideal," (Media Tracking, 2020-2021)

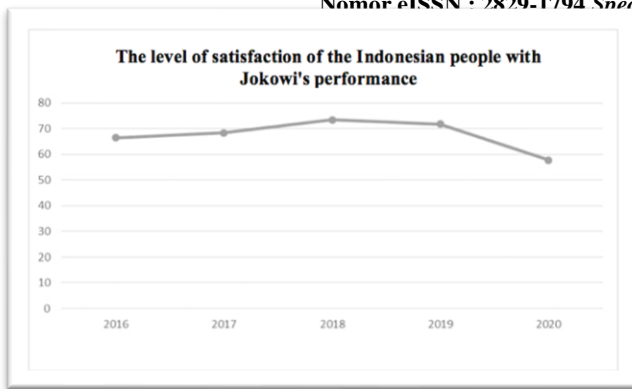


FIGURE 4. Based on media tracking on news websites, shows the level of satisfaction of the Indonesian people with Jokowi's performance.

CONCLUSION

From the results of media searches and surveys of several institutions, it is known that public trust in the good governance of the Jokowi government has decreased. Before COVID-19, Indonesians were optimistic that President Jokowi would be able to bring about change for Indonesia, especially in the economic field. Apart from his positive image, Jokowi has a leadership style that is different from other Indonesian presidents, where his leadership style is very populist for all Indonesians. Since serving as President of Indonesia, several surveys have shown that Indonesian people's trust in the implementation of good governance in Jokowi's government is considered very good. This is following Indonesia's good economic growth in 2019 and the condition of the rupiah currency which tends to be stable. In addition, public trust in the Jokowi government is considered to be satisfying the community with several Jokowi government programs that are running smoothly, such as infrastructure development that is implemented evenly throughout Indonesia and public reforms. This all happened because of public trust in Jokowi's government. However, conditions were different when COVID-19 hit Indonesia in March 2020. The government's lack of responsiveness in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a decline in public confidence in the Jokowi government. The decline in public trust in the government also decreased along with people who began to doubt the COVID-19 data provided by the government.

The government's lack of seriousness is seen from the response of public officials who are not serious in responding to the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and the government is considered not transparent in handling the COVID-19 pandemic. As well as in the economic sector which initially showed good growth, but after the COVID-19 pandemic, according to a survey, public perception of the national economy was considered bad by more than 50% of respondents.

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